

DOCKET NO. 97-S-159 (STMI01-97159)

PATENT

Customer No. 30425

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Darryn McDade, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/207,136  
Filed : December 8, 1998  
For : SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR DIGITAL AUDIO/VIDEO  
DECODER SPLITTING SIGNAL INTO COMPONENT DATA  
STREAMS FOR RENDERING AT LEAST TWO VIDEO  
SIGNALS (AS AMENDED)  
Group No. : 2621  
Examiner : Huy Thanh Nguyen  
Confirmation No. : 6383

**MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF – PATENTS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**APPEAL BRIEF**

The Appellant has appealed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the final rejection of the Examiner dated April 15, 2008, finally rejecting claims 1-8, 11-20, 25-27 and 31-33. The Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal, which was received by the Office on September 18, 2008. The Appellant respectfully submits this brief on appeal.

**REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The real party in interest for this appeal is the assignee of the application,  
STMicroelectronics, Inc.

**RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

There are no known appeals or interferences that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this pending appeal.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-8, 11-20, 25-27 and 31-33 are pending and have been rejected by the final Office Action dated February 20, 2008. Claims 9-10, 21-24 and 28-30 were canceled. Claims 1-8, 11-20, 25-27 and 31-33 are presented for appeal.

**STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

An Advisory Action mailed August 21, 2008 refused entry of amendments submitted following the final Office Action.

## **SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**

*The following summary refers to disclosed embodiments and their advantages but does not delimit any of the claimed inventions.*

### **In General**

The claimed subject matter relates generally to adder circuits.

### **Support for Independent Claims**

*Note that, per 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, only the independent claims are discussed in this section. The discussion of the claims in this section is for illustrative purposes and is not intended to affect the scope of the claims.*

In one embodiment, corresponding to independent claim 1, the claimed subject matter includes a file reader 310 capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source 32, a file navigator 318 enabling selection of a particular file on the data source 32 and instructing the file reader 310 to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source 32 and a splitter 310 separating the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into one or more component data streams 322, 324 and 326:

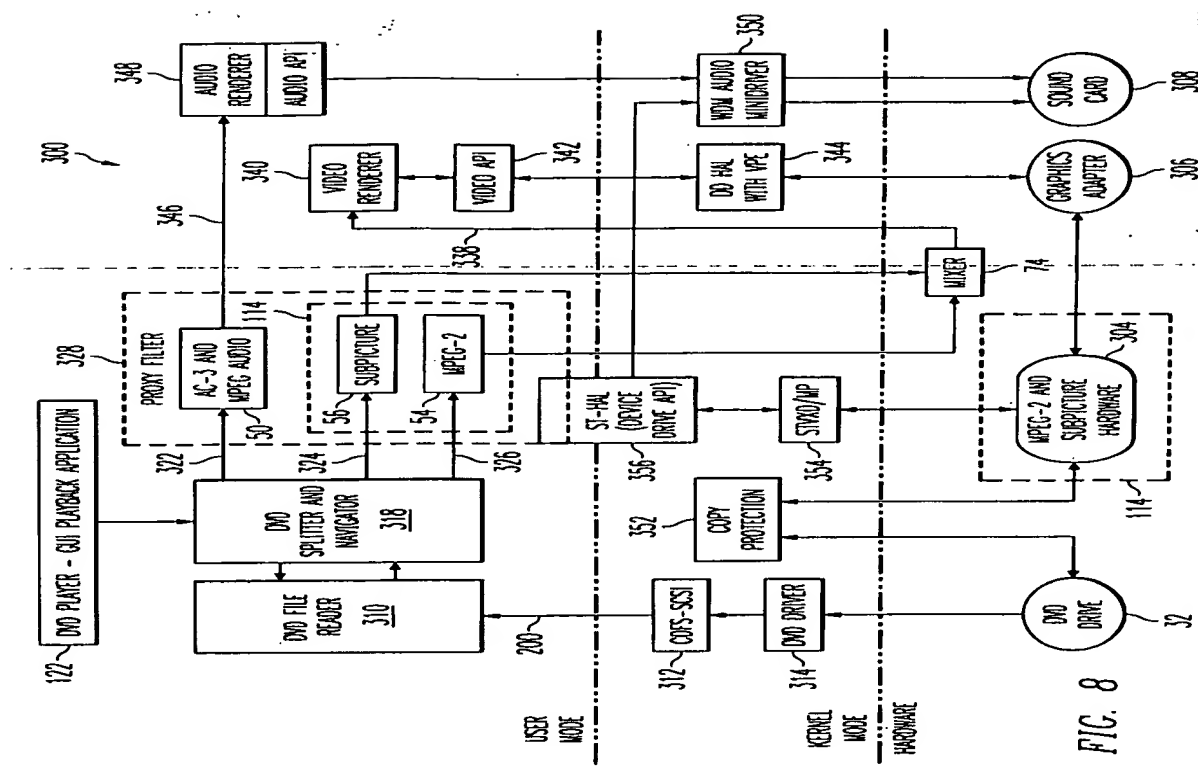


FIG. 8

Specification, Figure 8, page 23, line 17-20. A reprogrammable proxy filter 328 receiving the component data streams 322, 324 and 326 is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data and adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and on audio data separately coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards. Specification, page 22, lines 8-19, page 24, lines 4-6 and 10-15. The proxy filter 328 decodes and converts the component data streams 322, 324 and 326 into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals. Specification, page 24, lines 11-13, page 25, lines 16-22.

In a second embodiment of the claimed subject matter, corresponding to independent claim 20, a digital audio/video decoder includes a file reader 310 capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source 32, a navigator 318 enabling selection of a particular file on the data source 32 and instructing the file reader 310 to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source, and a user interface 122 connected to the navigator 318 and having one or more predefined functions for selecting an encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained. Specification, Figure 8, page 22, line 20 to page 23, line 5, page 23, line 17-20. A splitter 310 separates the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into an audio data stream 322, a video data stream 326, a subpicture data stream 324 and a navigation data stream, with the navigator 318 coupled to the splitter 310 such that the navigator 318 can use the navigation data stream to select the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained. Specification, page 23, lines 17-20, page 24, lines 7-9. An audio filter 50 adapted to programmably operate on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards decodes and converts the audio data stream 322 into a renderable audio signal. Specification, page 22, line 8 to page 23, line 5, page 23, lines 5-6 and 10-15, page 25, lines 3-5 and 9-15. A video filter 54 adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards separately of an audio data coding standard currently employed by the audio filter decodes and converts the video data stream 326 into a renderable video signal. Specification, page 22, line 8 to page 23, line 5, page 23, lines 5-6 and 10-15, page 25, lines 5-19.



The video filter 54 and the audio filter 50 are reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data. Specification, page 24, lines 4-6 and 10-15, page 25, lines 13-15. A subpicture filter 56 decodes and converts the subpicture data stream 324 into a renderable subpicture signal. Specification, page 25, lines 20-21. A mixer 74 combines the renderable subpicture signal with the renderable video signal and producing a combined video signal 338. Specification, page 25, line 21 to page 26, line 6. A synchronizing filter synchronizes the renderable audio signal and the combined video signal. Specification, page 16, lines 2-5, page 27, lines 1-3. An audio renderer 348 coupled to the audio decoder 50 and an audio application program interface controls the manipulation and rendering of an audio signal from the renderable audio signal. Specification, page 26, line 20 to page 27, line 1. A video renderer 340 coupled to the mixer 74 and a video application program interface 342 controls the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the combined video signal 338. Specification, page 26, lines 7-16.

In a third embodiment of the claimed subject matter, corresponding to independent claim 25, a digital audio/video system comprises a DVD drive 32, a file reader 310 communicably coupled to the DVD drive 32 to obtain any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from the DVD drive utilizing a file system, and a navigator 318 communicably coupled to the file reader 310 enabling selection of a particular file on the DVD drive 32 and selectively instructing the file reader 310 to obtain a particular encoded audio/video data stream corresponding to a selected file from the DVD drive. Specification, Figure 8, page 23, line 17-

20. A splitter 318 communicably coupled to the file reader 310 separates the encoded audio/video data stream into one or more data streams 322, 324, and 326, and a reprogrammable proxy filter 328 communicably coupled to the splitter 310, reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCN audio data, is adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and separately on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards. Specification, page 22, lines 8-19, page 24, lines 4-6 and 10-15. The proxy filter 328 decodes and converts the component data streams 322, 324 and 326 into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals. Specification, page 24, lines 11-13, page 25, lines 16-22. A mixer 74 communicably coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter 328 combines the at least two renderable video signals and producing a combined video signal 338. Specification, page 25, line 21 to page 26, line 6. An audio renderer 348 coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter 328 and an audio application program interface controls the manipulation and rendering of the at least one renderable audio signal 346. Specification, page 26, line 20 to page 27, line 1. A video renderer 340 coupled to the mixer 74 and a video application program interface 342 controls the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the combined video signal 338. Specification, page 26, lines 7-16.

**GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

1. Were claims 1-3, 4-8, 11-17, 19-20, 25-27 and 31-32 properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,704 to *Mimura et al* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,262,875 to *Mincer* and European Patent Application Publication No. 0 847 191 A2 (“EP ‘191”)?

2. Were claims 18 and 33 properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Mimura et al* in view of *Mincer* and EP ‘191 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,642,171 to *Baumgartner et al*?

## **ARGUMENT**

### **1. GROUND OF REJECTION #1**

Claims 1-3, 4-8, 11-17, 19-20, 25-27 and 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Mimura et al* in view of *Mincer* and EP ‘191.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2142, p. 2100-127 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008). Absent such a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to produce evidence of nonobviousness. *Id.*

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: First, there must be some reason – such as a suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art – to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. MPEP § 2142, pp. 2100-127 to 2100-128 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008); MPEP § 2143, pp. 2100-128 to 2100-139; MPEP § 2143.01, pp. 2100-139 to 2100-141. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. MPEP § 2143.02, pp. 2100-141 to 2100-142 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008). Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP § 2143.02, pp. 2100-141 to 2100-142 (8th ed. rev. 7 July 2008).

#### **Claims 1-5, 8-16 and 19-31**

Independent claim 1 recites a file reader capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source and a file navigator enabling

selection of a particular file on the data source and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source. Similarly independent claim 20 recites a file reader capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source and a navigator enabling selection of a particular file on the data source and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source. Independent claim 25 recites a file reader communicably coupled to the DVD drive to obtain any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from the DVD drive utilizing a file system and a navigator communicably coupled to the file reader enabling selection of a particular file on the data source and selectively instructing the file reader to obtain a particular encoded audio/video data stream corresponding to a selected file from the DVD drive. Such a combination of features is not found in the cited references.

The Office Action states:

Mimura discloses a digital audio/video decoder (Fig. 1) comprising a file reader capable of obtaining any of one or more encoded audio/video data streams from a data source utilizing a file system (Fig. 6, column 11, line 55 to column 12, lines 12) and a file navigator (video manager) enabling selection of a particular file on the data source and instructing a file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from the data source (column 7, line 50 to column 8, line 17, column 37, lines 65 to column 38, line 20) . . .

Paper No. 20080412, page 3. However, the Office Action notably fails to identify any particular structure within *Mimura et al* as constituting the recited “file reader.” Nothing in the cited Figures 1 and 6 of *Mimura et al* is labeled a “file reader,” and the term “file reader” does not

appear anywhere in the cited portion of the description of *Mimura et al* (column 11, line 55 to column 12, lines 12). (Note that the “video manager” is cited in the Office Action as satisfying the “file navigator” limitation). To the extent that the recited “file reader” is asserted to be inherent in some other structure within *Mimura et al*, no identification of that structure is made. A proper rejection must be stated clearly and specifically. MPEP § 707.07(d), page 700-125 (8th ed. rev. 6, September 2007) (“Where a claim is refused for any reason relating to the merits thereof it should be ‘rejected’ *and the ground of rejection fully and clearly stated . . .*”) (emphasis added); see also *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1449 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (Plager, J., concurring) (“The process of patent examination is an interactive one. The examiner cannot sit mum, leaving the applicant to shoot arrows into the dark hoping to somehow hit a secret objection harbored by the examiner. . . . [E]xaminers . . . must state clearly and specifically any objections . . . to patentability, and give the applicant fair opportunity to meet those objections with evidence and argument.”) (emphasis added, citations omitted). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a proper rejection has not been made.

Moreover, the cited portions of *Mimura et al* do not teach the features that they are asserted in the Office Action to disclose. In particular, the “Video Manager” depicted in Figure 6 does not “enabl[e] selection of a particular file on the data source and instruct[] the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source,” as asserted in the Office Action. Rather, the Video Manager in *Mimura et al* enables selection of a video title. See *Mimura et al*, column 15, lines 58-60 (video manager uses video

titles). As taught by the portion of *Mimura et al* cited in the Office Action as described a “file reader,” each video title comprises a plurality of files:

As shown in FIG. 6, the volume and file structure is a hierarchic structure and contains a volume and file structure area 70, a video manager (VMA) 71, at least one video title set (VTS) #i 72, and another recorded area 73. These areas 70, 71, 72, 73 are aligned with the boundaries between logical sectors. As with a conventional CD, a logical sector is defined as a set of 2048 bytes. Accordingly, one logical sector corresponds to one logical block.

The volume and file structure area 70 corresponds to a management area determined in Micro UDF or ISO 9660. According to the description in the management area, the video manager 71 is stored in the system ROM/RAM section 52. With reference to FIG. 7, the information used to manage video title sets 72 is written in the video manager 71, which is composed of a plurality of files, starting with file #0. In each video title set 72, compressed video data, compressed audio data, compressed sub-picture data, and the reproducing information about these data items are as explained later. Each video title set is composed of a plurality of files 74. The number of video title sets 72 is limited to a maximum of 99. Furthermore, the number of files 74 (from file #j to file #j+9) constituting each video title set 72 is determined to be a maximum of 10. These files 72 are also aligned with the boundaries between logical sectors.

*Mimura et al*, column 11, lines 55 to column 12, line 12. Accordingly, the Video Manager in *Mimura et al* does not enable selection of a particular file, but instead only selection of files that correspond to the first file of a video title.

Independent claims 1, 20 and 25 each recite a reprogrammable proxy filter that is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data. The Office Action concedes that “*Mimura et al* as modified with *Mincer* fails to specifically teach the decoder capable of decoding audio data having a standard that is different from a video standard such as MPEG audio, AC3, PCM being different from video standard.” Paper No. 20080412, page 4. The

Office Action asserts that EP '191 discloses such features, based on the following statements:

Digital video disk (DVD) devices store audio-visual data in a highly compressed form and play the audio-visual data to a user. . . . DVD CD-ROM players retrieve and display video images that have been compressed using known video compression techniques, such as the International Standard Organization's (ISO) Motion Picture Expert Group (MPEG) techniques MPEG 1 and MPEG 2. . . . In addition to playing video images, DVD devices can also read and play compressed audio sequences using known audio decompression techniques (*e.g.*, Dolby AC3, Linear PCM, MPEG 1 or MPEG 2).

EP '191, column 1, lines 8-10, 17-22 and 41-44. However, the cited portion of EP '191 does not suggest a filter accommodating a combination of one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data. At most, the cited portion of EP '191 describes separately playing audio and video, as by playing video according to MPEG 1 or MPEG 2 at a first time and at a later time playing Dolby AC3, Linear PCM, MPEG 1 or MPEG 2 audio.

Moreover, EP '191 does not suggest accommodating accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data, as recited in the claims. EP '191 does not suggest filtering MPEG 1 video data and Dolby AC3 audio data together, or MPEG 1 video data and Linear PCM audio data, or MPEG 2 video data and Dolby AC3 audio data together, or MPEG 2 video data and Linear PCM audio data.

#### Claim 12

Claim 12 recites that the one or more decoding standards according to which the reprogrammable proxy filter can decode and convert component data streams can be updated via



software – that is, changes to existing standards may be added by software for use by the reprogrammable proxy filter. Such a feature is not found in the cited references. The cited portions of *Mincer et al* merely suggest that playback units 41, 42 . . . 4n may each decompress audio/video data according to any of a plurality of compression standards, without making any mention of updating those standards by software or otherwise accommodating changes to the standards.

Claim 13

Claim 13 recites that a new decoding standard according to which the reprogrammable proxy filter can decode and convert component data streams can be added to the one or more decoding standards via software. Such a feature is not found in the cited references. The cited portions of *Mincer et al* make no mention of adding support for additional standards.

**2. GROUND OF REJECTION #2**

Claims 18 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Mimura et al* in view of *Mincer* and EP '191 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,642,171 to *Baumgartner et al*.

Claims 18 and 33 depend from claims 1 and 25, and are therefore patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons given above.

**CONCLUSION**

The cited references do not depict or describe all features of the claimed invention in the appealed claims. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are improper. Appellant respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals reverse the decision of the Examiner below rejecting the pending claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK CARTER, P.C.

Date: 12-9-2008

  
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**APPENDIX A**

**PENDING CLAIMS APPENDIX**

1. A digital audio/video decoder comprising:
  - a file reader capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source;
  - a file navigator enabling selection of a particular file on the data source and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source;
  - a splitter separating the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into one or more component data streams; and
  - a reprogrammable proxy filter that is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data and adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and on audio data separately coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards, the proxy filter decoding and converting the one or more component data streams into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals.
2. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, further comprising a user interface connected to the file navigator for selecting a file containing the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

3. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 2, wherein the user interface further comprises more than one predefined functions for selecting the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

4. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 3, wherein the more than one predefined functions comprise:

- a play function;
- a pause function;
- a menu function;
- a stop function;
- a previous function; and
- a next function.

5. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 2, wherein the one or more component data streams further comprises:

- an audio data stream;
- a video data stream;
- a subpicture data stream; and
- a navigation data stream.

6. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 5, wherein the file navigator is coupled to the splitter such that the file navigator can use the navigation data stream to select the file containing the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained according to one or more selection signals received from the user interface.

7. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter further comprises:

an audio decoder;

a video decoder; and

a subpicture decoder,

wherein each of the audio decoder, the video decoder and the subpicture decoder may be selectively updated or replaced within the proxy filter.

8. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter can decode and convert component data streams that conform to one or more of an MPEG coding standard, a Dolby AC-3 coding standard, a PCM coding standard.

11. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter uses one or more decoding standards to decode and convert the one or more component data streams.

12. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 11, wherein the one or more decoding standards can be updated via software.

13. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 11, wherein a new decoding standard can be added to the one or more decoding standards via software.

14. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the three or more renderable signals comprise:

- a renderable audio signal;
- a renderable video signal; and
- a renderable subpicture signal.

15. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 14, further comprising a mixer for combining the renderable subpicture signal with the renderable video signal and producing a combined video signal.

16. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter further comprises a function for synchronizing the three or more renderable signals.

17. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

an audio renderer coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and an audio application program interface, the audio renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of an audio signal from the three or more renderable signals; and

a video renderer coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and a video application program interface, the video renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the three or more renderable signals.

18. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

a sound card;

a video graphics adapter; and

a video driver for receiving the rendered video signal from the video application program interface and controlling the video graphics adapter such that a video output signal is produced from the rendered video signal.

19. The digital audio/video decoder as recited in claim 17, wherein the data source is a digital video disk (DVD), the digital audio/video decoder further comprising:

a DVD device driver; and

a DVD drive,

wherein the file reader accesses the DVD through the DVD device driver and DVD drive.



20. A digital audio/video decoder comprising:

a file reader capable of obtaining any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from a data source;

a navigator enabling selection of a particular file on the data source and instructing the file reader to obtain a selected encoded audio/video data stream from a corresponding file on the data source;

a user interface connected to the navigator and having one or more predefined functions for selecting an encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained;

a splitter separating the encoded audio/video data stream obtained by the file reader into an audio data stream, a video data stream, a subpicture data stream and a navigation data stream, wherein the navigator is coupled to the splitter such that the navigator can use the navigation data stream to select the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained;

an audio filter adapted to programmably operate on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards, the audio filter decoding and converting the audio data stream into a renderable audio signal;

a video filter adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards separately of an audio data coding standard currently employed by the audio filter, the video filter decoding and converting the video data stream into a renderable video signal,

wherein the video filter and the audio filter are reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCM audio data;

a subpicture filter decoding and converting the subpicture data stream into a renderable subpicture signal;

a mixer combining the renderable subpicture signal with the renderable video signal and producing a combined video signal;

a synchronizing filter synchronizing the renderable audio signal and the combined video signal;

an audio renderer coupled to the audio decoder and an audio application program interface, the audio renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of an audio signal from the renderable audio signal; and

a video renderer coupled to the mixer and a video application program interface, the video renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of a video signal from the combined video signal.

25. A digital audio/video system comprising:

a DVD drive;

a file reader communicably coupled to the DVD drive to obtain any of one or more files containing encoded audio/video data streams from the DVD drive utilizing a file system;

a navigator communicably coupled to the file reader enabling selection of a particular file on the data source and selectively instructing the file reader to obtain a particular encoded audio/video data stream corresponding to a selected file from the DVD drive;

a splitter communicably coupled to the file reader and separating the encoded audio/video data stream into one or more data streams;

a reprogrammable proxy filter communicably coupled to the splitter that is reprogrammable to accommodate any combination of any one of MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-3 video data with any one of AC-3, MPEG or PCN audio data and adapted to programmably operate on video data coded according to any one of a plurality of video data coding standards and separately on audio data coded according to any one of a plurality of audio data coding standards, the proxy filter decoding and converting the one or more component data streams into three or more renderable signals including at least one renderable audio signal and at least two renderable video signals;

a mixer communicably coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and combining the at least two renderable video signals and producing a combined video signal;

an audio renderer coupled to the reprogrammable proxy filter and an audio application program interface, the audio renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of the at least one renderable audio signal; and

a video renderer coupled to the mixer and a video application program interface, the video renderer controlling the manipulation and rendering of the combined video signal.

26. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, further comprising a user interface connected to the file navigator and selecting the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

27. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 26, wherein the user interface further comprises more than one predefined function for selecting the encoded audio/video data stream to be obtained.

31. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter uses one or more decoding standards to decode and convert the one or more component data streams and contains software that may be selectively updated or replaced.

32. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, wherein the reprogrammable proxy filter further comprises a function for synchronizing the three or more renderable signals.

33. The digital audio/video system as recited in claim 25, further comprising:

a sound card;

an audio driver receiving the rendered audio signal from the audio application program interface and controlling the sound card such that an audio output signal is produced from the rendered audio signal;

a video graphics adapter; and

a video driver receiving the rendered video signal from the video application program interface and controlling the video graphics adapter such that a video output signal is produced from the rendered video signal.

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**APPENDIX B**

**EVIDENCE APPENDIX**

None

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**APPENDIX C**

**RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

None